

CLAIMS

1. A polypeptide selected from:
  - (a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, or variants thereof; and
  - (b) a polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence translated from the polynucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, or variants thereof.
2. A polypeptide of Claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 75% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.
3. A polypeptide of Claim, comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 85% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.
4. A polypeptide of Claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.
5. An isolated and/or purified polynucleotide selected from:
  - (a) a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4;
  - (b) a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence of the 85th to 2700th nucleotides in the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a nucleotide sequence of the 43rd to 1851st nucleotides in the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or variants thereof;
  - (c) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% identity to the polynucleotide of (a) or (b);
  - (d) a complement to the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (c);
  - (e) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence which is capable of hybridising to the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (d); and
  - (f) a polynucleotide fragment of the polynucleotide of any one of (a) to (e).
6. A polynucleotide of claim 5, comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 75% identity to the nucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide (b).
7. A polynucleotide of claim 5, comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 85% identity to the nucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide (b).
8. A polynucleotide of claim 5, comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 95% identity to the nucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide (b).
9. A polynucleotide probe or primer comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of the polynucleotide of any one of Claim 5.
10. An expression vector for the expression of a human vanilloid receptor-like protein in a recombinant host cell wherein said expression vector contains the polynucleotide of Claim 5.

11. A host cell which expresses a human vanilloid receptor-like protein wherein said host cell contains the expression vector of Claim 10.

12. A process for producing a polypeptide of Claim 1, which comprises culturing a host cell of Claim 11 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide from the culture medium.

13. An antibody immunospecific for a polypeptide of Claim 1.

14. A diagnostic kit for diagnosing a disease or a susceptibility to a disease associated with biological function of a human vanilloid receptor-like protein, which comprises a polynucleotide of Claim 5, or an antibody to a polypeptide of Claim 1.

15. A method for screening to identify modulators which modulate function of a polypeptide of Claim 1, which comprises contacting a test compound or sample with the polypeptide, and detecting an activity of the test compound or sample to modulate the function of the polypeptide.

16. A modulator obtainable by a screening method of Claim 15.

17. A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of conditions associated with biological function of a human vanilloid receptor-like protein, which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a modulator of Claim 16 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. A non-human transgenic animal model for vanilloid receptor-like gene function wherein the transgenic animal has an alteration in vanilloid receptor-like function relative to a normal animal of the same species

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